

**JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3  
Columbia River Compact  
February 5, 2004**

**Purpose:** To review salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt stock status and consider commercial fishing seasons for salmon, sturgeon, shad, and smelt in the Columbia River, including Select Area fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Deep River, and Youngs Bay.

**TAC:** The Joint Staff report was mailed out on February 3, 2004 and was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) prior to mailing.

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Forecasts and Returns				
Run	2004 Forecast	2004 Comments	2003	
			Preseason Forecast	Actual Return
<u>Spring Chinook</u>				
Willamette	109,400	Good, third largest since (1991)	109,800	126,600
Sandy	5,200	Good, sixth largest on record (1980)	4,800	6,400
Cowlitz	15,900	Good, second largest since 1984	4,900	13,400
Kalama	6,000	Good, second largest on record (1969)	3,600	5,100
Lewis	5,400	Improved, largest since 1993	3,100	4,200
Select Area	7,200-8,200	Similar to record high in 2003	10,000-14,000	7,600
Upriver	360,700	Outstanding, second largest on record	145,400	208,900
<u>Combined Upriver Spring/Snake River Summer Chinook</u>				
Total Run	394,400	Good, second largest in the database (1979)	----	242,600
Wild Run	64,900	Good, second largest in the database (1979)	----	49,600
<u>Summer Chinook</u>				
Upriver	102,800	Good, fourth largest since 1962	87,600	116,900
Upper Columbia	69,100	Good, third largest in database (1979)		83,100
<u>Sockeye</u>				
Upriver	80,700	Improved significantly over recent two years	22,100	39,400
Snake River	154	Poor, mostly returns from captive brood	80	28
<u>Steelhead</u>				
Wild Winter	32,200	Good increase over 2003	15,500	26,700
Skamania Index	18,300	Average, similar to recent 5-year average	16,600	14,200
Group A Index	306,600	Good, second largest on record (1984)	279,600	304,500
Group B Index	63,200	Good, seventh largest on record (1984)	64,700	38,500
Total Upriver Index	388,100	Good, third largest on record (1938)	360,900	357,200

## 2004 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

### *Interim Management Agreement*

- An Interim Management Agreement covering fisheries for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye is in effect through 2005.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes a sliding scale spring chinook harvest matrix for 2001-2005.
- In accordance with the Interim Management Agreement, impacts to listed upriver spring chinook during 2004 will be limited to 15% for both non-Indian fisheries and treaty Indian fisheries combined.
- The Interim Management Agreement allocated impacts between non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries for 2001-2003. Discussions are ongoing between the states and tribes regarding sharing of allowable impacts for 2004.

### *Endangered Species Act (ESA)*

- Fisheries being considered at this Compact are addressed in a Section 7/10 Application outlining proposed non-Indian fisheries that the states of Washington and Oregon submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on November 3, 2000 which was subsequently covered under a Biological Opinion.
- The states have recently submitted Biological Assessments to NOAA Fisheries requesting reinitiation of consultation under the Biological Opinion to consider modifications to the impacts for Select Area fisheries, the Snake River sport fishery, the Wanapum tribal fishery, and wild winter steelhead impacts for mainstem non-Indian fisheries.
- Until consultation with NOAA Fisheries is completed, the states' intent is to manage non-Indian winter/spring season fisheries in accordance with ESA-related impact limits shown below.

<i>SUMMARY OF ESA IMPACT LIMITS</i>	
<u>Chinook</u>	
Spring Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 12%
Spring Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 15%
Summer Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Sockeye</u>	
Snowy Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Steelhead</u>	
Snowy Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Hatchery	≤ 6%
Middle Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 2%
<u>Trout</u>	
Bull Trout	0%

### *Willamette Spring Chinook Management*

- The Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for Willamette River spring chinook was implemented on February 2001.

- The FMEP limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring chinook to  $\leq 15\%$  and requires the release of wild Willamette spring chinook in sport and commercial freshwater fisheries.
- The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP) was most recently modified at the December 14, 2001 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The revised plan includes a sliding scale for escapement goals and determines allocation of surplus hatchery spring chinook to sport and commercial fisheries.
- Based on the WFMP and an expected return of 98,500 hatchery spring chinook the freshwater harvest of surplus hatchery Willamette River spring chinook is allocated 70% for sport fisheries and 30% for commercial fisheries.

### ***2004-2005 Non-Indian Spring Chinook Allocation***

- The following guiding principles and fishery management objectives were adopted by the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions to provide the Joint Staff with guidance when shaping fisheries preseason and managing fisheries inseason during 2004 and 2005.

<b><i>Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation For Non-Indian Fisheries, 2003-2005</i></b>	
<b>Guiding Principles</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet conservation requirements for wild spring chinook, including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.</li> <li>• Manage non-Indian harvest of spring chinook within the provisions of the <i>U.S. v Oregon</i> Management Agreement for upriver spring chinook.</li> <li>• Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals.</li> <li>• Focus sport and commercial fisheries' allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring chinook.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fisheries Management Objectives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available.</li> <li>• Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e., upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.</li> <li>• Adjustments to the sport fishery may occur in-season if it is estimated the fishery will not continue through April. In-season adjustments may include such options as days/week and area closures.</li> <li>• Reduce sport mortality rate with a new regulation requiring "any salmon to be released may not be removed from the water".</li> <li>• Recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.</li> <li>• Provide for sport fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam, sport/tribal fisheries in the Snake River and Upper Columbia River, and commercial and sport fisheries in Select Areas.</li> </ul>	

- The Directors of WDFW and ODFW provided staff with additional guidance for implementing OFWC and WFWC Commission policies concerning allocation of non-Indian spring chinook impacts between sport and commercial fisheries.
- Non-Indian impacts will be allocated 60% for sport fisheries and 40% for commercial fisheries.
- Preseason planning should focus on this allocation as a hard target, but in-season flexibility may be necessary.

- If possible, commercial fishing opportunity should be focussed on the February-March timeframe to avoid gear conflicts with recreational anglers in April.
- Preseason planning should include a 2% limit for wild winter steelhead with discussions between the states concerning allowable wild winter steelhead impacts to occur after completion of the NOAA Fisheries review of the steelhead Biological Assessment.
- Commercial fishers should maximize their efforts to avoid handling steelhead.

### ***2003-2005 Sturgeon Management***

- 2004 will be the eighth consecutive year in which a Joint State Agreement is used to guide Columbia River sturgeon fishery management.
- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is based on 42"-60" size limits for the sport fishery and 48"-60" size limits for the commercial fishery and is to be allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial.
- During 2003, commercial and sport catches totaled 8,000 and 31,900, respectively, and were compliant with the annual guidelines established for 2003-2005 by Joint State Agreement.
- At the January 15, 2004 Joint State sport hearing the minimum size limit for the area below Wauna was increased to 45" effective May 15 which reduced the sport allocation from 32,000 white sturgeon to 29,000 white sturgeon.
- Prior to commencement of the 2003 commercial winter sturgeon season, public meetings were held with the commercial fishing industry to develop a white sturgeon retention protocol for commercial fisheries.
- At the February 6, 2003 hearing, the Compact adopted a protocol regarding white sturgeon retention in Columbia River commercial fisheries during 2003-2005.

<b><i>Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2003-2005.</i></b>	
✓	Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 2,000 for the winter-summer timeframe (January-July), 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,600 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).
✓	Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
✓	Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
✓	Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during winter and early fall timeframes if feasible.
✓	Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
✓	Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season specific catch expectation or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.
✓	Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers, landings and possession limits will be in the form of per vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
✓	Joint Staff will conduct an annual post season evaluation of white sturgeon with industry.

- A public meeting was held on December 11, 2003 to discuss sturgeon catch in 2003 commercial fisheries, consider modifications to the currently adopted white sturgeon retention protocol, and discuss commercial sturgeon seasons for 2004.

- The public meeting resulted in general concurrence regarding the following white sturgeon commercial fishery and retention management strategies for 2004:
  - 1) The group recommended no changes to the currently adopted commercial white sturgeon retention protocol.
  - 2) The winter season should consist of five 24-hour fishing periods to begin in mid-January and end in mid-February.
  - 3) Fishery managers should modify fishing period lengths or adopt per vessel landing limits inseason to ensure that the fishery extends through mid-February.
  - 4) The winter sturgeon fishery should be managed for a catch of about 1,800 white sturgeon, which would provide 200 white sturgeon for the winter spring chinook fishery.
  - 5) During late fall fisheries a vessel landing limit of three per day did not fill market needs, while a vessel landing limit of nine per day exceeded market needs.
- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on January 20, 2004 to discuss recommendations for 2004 Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines.
- Catch guidelines for all three pools were adopted at the January 23, 2004 Compact hearing. Guidelines for The Dalles and John Day pools remained unchanged from 2003 while the guidelines for the Bonneville Pool dropped significantly based on the recent population update.

<i>Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines For 2004</i>			
Pool	Sport	Treaty	Total
Bonneville Pool	700	400	1,100
The Dalles Pool	400	900	1,300
John Day Pool	165	335	500
Total	1,265	1,635	2,900

- The SMTF recognizes an annual treaty Indian subsistence catch expectation of 300 sturgeon.

### ***Smelt***

- A Joint State Eulachon Management Plan has been in effect since 2001.
- The Joint State Eulachon Management Plan provides for three levels of fishing based on 1) parental run strength, 2) juvenile production, and 3) estimates of ocean productivity.
- During 2003-2004, smelt fisheries will be managed at Level Three in accordance with the Joint State Eulachon Management Plan.

## **NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### ***2004 Smelt Fisheries***

- A Level 3 commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River was adopted at the December 19, 2003 Compact hearing.
- The adopted fishery consists of four 18-hour fishing periods per week (3 AM-9 PM Sundays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays) and is scheduled to occur during January 1 - March 31, 2004.
- Migration conditions were generally poor during January with temperatures not exceeding 35°F (as measured at Bonneville Dam) during January 10-27. Conditions have improved considerably with a water temperature of 38°F at Bonneville Dam on January 30 and 42°F near Longview, Washington on January 31.

- Flow measured at Bonneville Dam was low for most of January, ranging between 112 kcfs-150 kcfs during January 10-27. Since January 27 flow at Bonneville Dam has ranged between 130 kcfs-190 kcfs.
- Turbidity was low for the month of January, ranging between 4-7 feet.
- Effort and catch in the mainstem Columbia River during January was low due to poor migration conditions.
- Since February 1 smelt landings have increased in response to improved migration conditions. Significant numbers of smelt appear to be present in the mainstem Columbia River from Astoria to Longview.
- Level 3 commercial and sport fisheries were adopted for Washington tributaries of the Columbia River for 2004.
- The Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers are open to commercial smelt fishing weekly from 6 PM Sunday through 6 PM Tuesday and 6 PM Wednesday through 6 PM Friday during January 1-March 31, 2004. Other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing.
- All Washington tributaries of the Columbia River are open for sport smelt fishing weekly from 6 AM to 10 PM daily (seven days per week) during January 1-March 31, 2004, with a daily bag limit of 20 pounds per person.
- No significant effort or catch was reported in Washington tributary sport fisheries during January.
- Smelt have entered the Cowlitz River as evidenced by successful sport dipping on Wednesday February 3.

#### ***2004 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery***

- At the December 19, 2003 Compact hearing the initial winter commercial sturgeon season was adopted with a 1,800 white sturgeon catch guideline in effect.
- The adopted fishery consisted of five 24-hour fishing periods from 6 AM Tuesday to 6 AM Wednesday during January 13-February 11, 2004.

- During the first three fishing periods landings totaled 1,119 white sturgeon, zero green sturgeon, and zero spring chinook.
- White sturgeon catch rates exceeded expectations and it became apparent that landings would likely exceed the 1,800 white sturgeon catch guideline.

<b><i>White Sturgeon Landings During Winter Commercial Seasons, 1999-2004</i></b>						
<b>Week</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>
January 5-11	--	--	994	773	389	--
January 12-18	610	534	555	502	365	407
January 19-25	248	205	360	338	408	428
January 26-Feb 1	189	139	341	409	328	375
February 2-8	225	75	384	134	--	--
February 9-15	211	247	--	469	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.483</b>	<b>1.200</b>	<b>2.634</b>	<b>2.625</b>	<b>1.490</b>	<b>1.210</b>

- At the February 2, 2004 hearing the Compact adopted a 20 sturgeon per vessel possession and sales limit during each calendar week consistent with the commercial sturgeon retention protocol and results of the December 11, 2003 public meeting.
- Landings during the fourth fishing period declined due to implementation of the per vessel possession and sales limit and high flows.

- Landings during the fourth fishing period are project to total 225-275 white sturgeon which leaves 315-365 fish remaining on the 1,800 fish catch guideline.
- The final period is scheduled for 6 AM Tuesday February 10 to 6 PM Wednesday February 11.

### ***2004 Winter Salmon Demonstration Fishery***

- The 2003 commercial demonstration fishery produced poor results due to unusually high impacts to listed upriver spring chinook. The 2003 winter fishery consisted of three fish days (two with large mesh and one with small mesh) and resulted in kept catches of 3,046 spring chinook and 27 white sturgeon.
- Based on the poor performance of the 2003 winter season the Joint Staff have developed a fishing plan for the 2004 winter salmon fishery. This plan was developed in cooperation with the Columbia River Commercial Fishing Advisory Group and is intended to maximize the catch of Willamette hatchery spring chinook and minimize handle of listed upriver spring chinook and wild winter steelhead.
- The fishery plan includes test fishing prior to the initiation of any full fleet fishing period. Test fishing will be conducted voluntarily by members of the commercial fishing industry.

<b><i>2004 Winter Season Commercial Fishing Plan</i></b>	
•	<p>The Joint Staff is proposing the following decision making schedule for the 2004 winter season commercial fishery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Test fishing occurs on Sunday.</li> <li>✓ Compact to occur Monday afternoon.</li> <li>✓ Full fleet fishery may occur Tuesday depending on results from test fishing on Sunday.</li> <li>✓ Use Tuesday full fleet fishery as test fishery or conduct test fishing on Tuesday.</li> <li>✓ Compact to occur Wednesday afternoon</li> <li>✓ Full fleet fishery may occur Thursday depending on results from previous full fleet fishery or test fishing on Tuesday.</li> </ul>

- ✓ Fishing plan will provide data necessary for making fishery management decisions.
  - ✓ Fishing plan will provide for timely adoption of fishing seasons based on data collected from full fleet demonstration fishery or test fishing.
  - ✓ Fishery plan will provide for orderly management of the demonstration fishery.
  - ✓ The test fishing will be initiated on Sunday February 22, 2004 and the earliest possible full fleet fishing period will be Tuesday February 24, 2004.
- The mark rate for spring chinook in 2004 is expected to be near 70% for upriver and 80% for Willamette.
  - The TAC reviewed the mortality rates used in the commercial fishery based on the results of the research during 2001-2003, and provided the following recommendations:
    1. Large mesh gear (8" or 9" minimum mesh size): 40% for spring chinook and 30% for steelhead.
    2. Small mesh gear (4 ¼" maximum mesh size): 18.5% for spring chinook and steelhead.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Joint Staff is recommending that the following regulations be in effect during the 2004 commercial demonstration fishing season:</li> </ul>	
<b>Season:</b>	Individual fishing periods will not exceed 16 hours in length.
<b>Area:</b>	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4) likely for majority of the fishery.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Gray River, Gnat Creek, Elokomini-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries.
<b>Gear:</b>	Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. 9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh sizes during large mesh fishery. 4¼" maximum mesh size during tangle net fishery.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon. White sturgeon possession and sales restrictions to be determined based on gear and number of fish remaining on 2,000 fish guideline.
<b>Participants:</b>	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.  Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.  Use of recovery boxes will be required on all lethargic or bleeding fish salmonids.  Each participant will be required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in this fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber. Each box shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.  Lighted buoys required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise.  Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The 9" minimum mesh size restriction will target spring chinook while minimizing steelhead handle.
- ✓ The large B sanctuaries for Washington tributaries will increase protection for wild winter steelhead.
- ✓ The proposed fishery will be managed to remain within ESA-related impact limits and WFMP catch allocations for listed upriver spring chinook, wild winter steelhead, and Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- ✓ On-board monitoring will occur inseason and throughout the test fishery to determine species specific encounter and mark rates for use in estimating cumulative impact rates.
- ✓ The proposed demonstration fishery is consistent with guiding principles adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions.
- ✓ The proposed demonstration fishery is expected to effectively target Willamette stock hatchery spring chinook while minimizing impacts to listed spring chinook and steelhead.
- ✓ Use of recovery box will improve survival rate of all listed species.

#### Quick Reporting Rule for Washington Buyers

WDFW has adopted rules that require commercial purchasers to report their landings by a specified time. This rule can be attached to any commercial season that is adopted, but is not in place unless specified. WDFW staff recommends that the "quick reporting required" clause be in place for the spring chinook tangle net fishery for 2004. Washington buyers would be required to send a report of their landings to WDFW by 10AM on the day after the purchase date by either:

- a) FAX transmission to (360) 906-6776 or (360) 906-6777
- b) E-mail to [crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)
- c) Telephone to 1-866-791-1281



### ***2004 Non-Indian Area 2S Commercial Shad Season***

- The proposed 2004 shad season is similar to seasons adopted during 1996-2003.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is recommending the following commercial fishery to allow the harvest of shad:</li></ul>	
Season:	3 PM - 10 PM Daily  May 17-21 (5 days) May 24-28 (5 days) June 1-4 (4 days) June 7-11 (5 days) June 14-18 (5 days) June 21-25 (5 days)
Area:	True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslacked, floater gill net; 5-3/8" to 6-1/4" mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length nor 40 meshes in depth.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water and those alive must be returned to the water unharmed.

- ✓ Area restrictions have been in effect since 1976 and gear restrictions have been in effect since 1996.
- ✓ The Joint Staff will estimate salmonid handle and mortalities in this fishery based on monitoring and/or past years' data.
- ✓ The catch expectation is for about 45,000 shad. Handle of other salmonids are expected to total <25 summer chinook (5 mortalities), <5 sockeye (zero mortalities), <25 steelhead (10 mortalities), and up to five listed wild steelhead (two mortalities).
- Due to lack of participation in recent years no shad commercial fishery is proposed for the Washougal Reef area in 2004.

### ***2004 Anchovy and Herring Bait Fishery***

- The anchovy and herring season is open year-round seaward of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, with seines of a mesh size not less than ½ inch and not over 1,400 feet in length. All other species must be released.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is not proposing any changes to the currently adopted regulations.</li></ul>

## NON-INDIAN SPORT FISHERIES

### *2004 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery*

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to salmon angling during January 1 through March 31 under permanent regulations.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is recommending that the current mainstem Columbia River sport fishery be expanded to include additional sport fishing opportunity. The entire recommended season is as follows:</li></ul>	
Area:	Columbia River mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to McNary Dam (not including Bonneville Pool).
Dates:	January 1 - May 15, 2004 (or until guideline is reached) below I-5 Bridge. March 16 - May 15, 2004 (or until guideline is reached) from I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam and from Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below the Dalles Dam) upstream to McNary Dam plus the Oregon bank between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
Catch Limits:	2 adipose fin-clipped adult salmon per day per permanent rules.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery upstream of the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line effective during February 16 through May 15 "It is unlawful to remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released".

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with guiding principles, fishery management objectives, and allocation plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions.
- ✓ The proposed fishery provides sport fishing opportunity to access surplus hatchery spring chinook and limits impacts to listed species.
- ✓ Time period above the I-5 Bridge beginning mid-March is intended to reduce impact to listed species and extend fishery later into the year.
- ✓ Modified salmonid handling regulations will improve post release survival of salmon and steelhead not retained in this fishery.
- The ODFW and WDFW met with the Columbia River Sport Advisory Board on January 22, 2004 to discuss inseason management of the Columbia River spring chinook fishery.
- Based on discussion with the Sport Advisory Board the states have developed a fishing plan for the 2004 spring chinook sport fishery and this plan is intended to extend the fishery for as long as possible in as much of the river as possible.

<i>2004 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is proposing the following decision making schedule for the 2004 spring chinook sport fishery<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April 1-May 15.</li><li>✓ Fishery checkpoints will be used to monitor progress towards adopted upriver spring chinook impact guideline and modify ongoing fishery.</li><li>✓ Modifications to ongoing fishery will occur in the following order:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Reduce fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam to less than seven days per week.</li><li>2) Eliminate fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam completely.</li><li>3) Reduce fishery below the I-5 Bridge to less than seven days per week.</li><li>4) Eliminate fishery below the I-5 Bridge completely.</li></ol></li><li>✓ Manage the fishery above Bonneville Dam to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery below the I-5 Bridge.</li></ul></li></ul>	

- ✓ Fishing plan maintains orderly schedule for making fishery management decisions.
- ✓ Closures to the area between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam extends fishery as long as possible.
- ✓ Initial reduction in days per week maintains fishing area in as much of the lower river for as long as possible.
- First fishery check point is scheduled for Tuesday April 6.

#### ***2004 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Sport Fishery***

- The mainstem Columbia River is currently closed to steelhead angling below I-5 Bridge during April 1 - May 15 and between I-5 Bridge and McNary Dam during April 1 - June 15 under permanent regulations.
- The mainstem Columbia River upstream to Bonneville Dam is currently closed to shad angling during April 1-May 15 under permanent regulations.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Joint Staff is recommending that the mainstem Columbia River be open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad when and where open for adipose fin-clipped spring chinook.</li> </ul>	

#### ***2004 Tributary Spring Chinook Sport Fisheries***

- No changes to permanent regulations for the Sandy River spring chinook sport fishery.
- Many Washington tributaries of the Columbia River are expected to open for spring chinook angling in 2004. Announcements of season dates and times are expected soon.

#### ***2004 Mainstem Sturgeon Sport Fishery***

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to sturgeon angling year round under permanent regulations.
- The ongoing season was modified at the January 15, 2004 Joint State hearing as follows:
  - Above Wauna: Allow retention seven days per week during January 1-31.  
Allow retention three days per week (Thursday-Saturday) during February 1-July 31 and October 1-December 31.
  - Below Wauna: Allow retention seven days per week during January 1-April 30 and May 15-July 23.  
Increase minimum size limit to 45" during May 15-July 23.
- Fishing during January was poor with cold water temperatures reducing catch rates.

### **TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES**

#### ***2004 Treaty Indian Sturgeon Setline Season***

- Under permanent Compact rules the commercial sturgeon setline fishery is open from January 1-31, 2004.
- Landings through January 31 have totaled 0 white sturgeon.

### ***2004 Treaty Indian Winter Gillnet Season***

- The treaty Indian mainstem winter commercial season was adopted at the December 19, 2003 Compact hearing.
- The adopted season includes all of Zone 6 from noon Monday February 2 through noon Sunday March 21.
- Other fishery regulations in effect include all standard sanctuaries, except no Spring Creek sanctuary; no mesh size restrictions; and allowable sales of salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, and carp.
- At the January 23, 2004 hearing the Compact modified the previously adopted size limits of 48"-60" for treaty Indian commercial and C&S fisheries. New size limits include 45"-60" limits for Bonneville Pool and 48"-60" for The Dalles and John Day pools.

### ***2004 Treaty Indian Spring and Summer Ceremonial and Subsistence (C&S) Fisheries***

- The tribes may recommend spring and summer C&S season options at this hearing.
- New sturgeon size limits of 45"-60" for Bonneville Pool will be in effect for this fishery.
- Sturgeon size limits for The Dalles and John Day pools remain unchanged at 48"-60".

### ***2004 Treaty Indian Experimental Zone 6 Target Shad Season***

- In 2004, the tribes may implement a shad dipnet fishery at The Dalles Dam east ladder exit if a market can be identified. Gear and methods will have little or no adverse impact to listed salmonids.

<b><i>Recommendation for Treaty Indian Shad Fisheries</i></b>
The Joint Staff is recommending that treaty Indian fishers continue to be allowed to sell shad caught incidental to commercial salmonid seasons and in traditional dipnet fisheries, as well as the proposed experimental trap and dipnet fisheries.

### **SELECT AREA FISHERIES**

- Releases of spring chinook (Willamette River stock) into Youngs Bay were initiated in 1989 by the Clatsop Economic Development Council (CEDC) fisheries project in cooperation with ODFW.
- The Select Area Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) Project, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), increased and expanded the spring chinook program beginning in 1995. The SAFE Project created under the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, is an interagency (CEDC, WDFW, and ODFW) coalition whose goal is to create and expand known stock fisheries in the Columbia River Basin that allow harvest of strong stocks while protecting depressed stocks.
- Fisheries targeting spring chinook were established in Youngs Bay beginning in 1992, in Blind Slough and Tongue Point in 1998, and in Deep River in 2003.
- Since 1996 spring chinook releases have stabilized at about 1 million smolts annually.
- No winter or spring SAFE fishery is planned for the Tongue Point site in 2004 since 2003 marked the final year of significant adult returns from production-level releases of spring chinook that were discontinued in 2000 due to excessive straying of returning adults.

- The 7,820 spring chinook landed in 2003 Select Area fisheries was lower than recent landings of 11,699 fish in 2002 and 9,269 fish in 2001.
- Based on visual stock identification (VSI) and coded-wire-tag (CWT) recoveries, catch in winter-summer SAFE fisheries has been comprised of 81% local, 15% lower river, and 4% upriver stocks during 1998-2003.
- Since 1998 impacts to listed Snake River wild spring chinook have ranged between 0.03% and 0.20% and have averaged 0.1%.
- Sport fisheries have improved in recent years. Based on limited creel surveys in 2003 minimum spring chinook catch estimates were 50 for Youngs Bay, 500 for Blind Slough, and 450 for Select Area tributaries.
- A public meeting was held in Astoria, Oregon on Wednesday January 28, 2004. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit input from interested participants concerning 2004 winter, spring, and summer fishery recommendations. Input received was considered by staff in developing fishery recommendations for the winter, spring, and summer of 2004.

### ***Fishery Objectives***

- Maximize commercial harvest while providing quality sport fishing opportunity.
- Minimize impacts on nonlocal chinook and steelhead.

### ***Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery***

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following seasons for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area:	
Winter Season:	Saturday nights from February 14 through March 7 (4 nights). Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Thursday nights during April 22 through April 30 and Monday and Thursday nights during May 3 through June 18. (16 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Blind Slough area only open during winter season and Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas open during spring season (see map).
Gear:	A 7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season.  Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on headline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. <b>During the winter season a maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.</b>
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations would be in effect.

- ✓ The winter season is recommended to target early arrivals of age 5 spring chinook.

- ✓ Weekend fishing periods during the winter season eliminate overlapping open fishing periods for mainstem and Select Areas.
- ✓ Previous monitoring data has shown that steelhead handle during winter season is negligible.
- ✓ A 7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season has shown to be effective at targeting spring chinook and reducing steelhead handle.
- ✓ The 8" maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season is recommended to target salmon not sturgeon.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures during the spring season will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.
- ✓ Special transportation permits have not been required since the 1999 spring season.
- ✓ Split fishing periods allow for modifications to fishery as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Fishing seasons are concurrent with Youngs Bay and Deep River seasons at the participants request to minimize congestion in fishing areas.

### ***Deep River Commercial Fishery***

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action.
- Washington State waters extend upstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Washington State action.
- A Washington license is required in Washington State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following seasons for the Deep River Select Area:	
Spring Season:	Thursday nights during April 22 through April 30 and Monday and Thursday nights during May 3 through June 18. (16 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Deep River fishing area from the Deep River boat launch upstream to the town of Deep River.
Gear:	A 7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season.  Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. <b>During the winter season a maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.</b>
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area is unlawful unless by licensed buyer. An exception to the rule would allow fishers to transport their catch out of the fishing area with a permit issued by an authorized agency employee after examining the catch.

- ✓ The 8" maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season is recommended to target salmon not sturgeon.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures during the spring season will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.

- ✓ Special transportation permits have not been required since the 1999 spring season.
- ✓ Split fishing periods allow for modifications to fishery as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Fishing seasons are concurrent with Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough seasons at the participants request to minimize congestion in fishing areas.

### ***Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery***

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required to participate in this fishery.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The ODFW staff is recommending the following seasons for the Youngs Bay Select Area:	
Winter Season:	6 PM Saturday February 14 - 6 AM Sunday February 15 (12 hours) 6 AM - 6 PM Wednesday February 18 (12 hours) 6 PM Saturday February 21 - noon Sunday February 22 (18 hours) 6 AM - 6 PM Wednesday February 25 (12 hours) 6 PM Saturday February 28 - noon Sunday February 29 (18 hours) 6 AM - 6 PM Wednesday March 3 (12 hours) 6 PM Saturday March 6 - noon Sunday March 7 (18 hours)
Spring Season:	6 PM Thursday April 22 - 6 AM Friday April 23 (12 hours) 6 PM Monday April 26 - 6 AM Tuesday April 27 (12 hours) 6 PM Thursday April 29 - 6 AM Friday April 30 (12 hours) 6 PM Monday May 3 - noon Tuesday May 4 (18 hours) 6 PM Thursday May 6 - noon Friday May 7 (18 hours) Noon Tuesday May 11 - noon Friday May 14 (3 days) Noon Monday May 17 - noon Friday May 21 (4 days) Noon Monday May 24 - noon Friday May 28 (4 days) Noon Monday May 31 - noon Friday June 4 (4 days) Noon Monday June 7 - noon Friday June 11 (4 days) Noon Tuesday June 15 - noon Friday June 18 (3 days)
Summer Season	Noon Wednesday June 23- noon Friday June 25 (2 days) Noon Wednesday June 30- noon Friday July 2 (2 days) Noon Wednesday July 7- 6 PM Thursday July 8 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 14- 6 PM Thursday July 15 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 21- 6 PM Thursday July 22 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 28- 6 PM Thursday July 29 (1 day)
Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers (see map).
Gear:	7-¼inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season.  8-inch maximum mesh size restriction in effect during the spring and summer seasons.  Restrict net to maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. <b>During the winter season a maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.</b>
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special permit would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ The 7-day winter season will target the first arrivals of the age 5 component of the run prior to the time when significant interceptions of nonlocal chinook stocks occur.

- ✓ Wednesday daylight and weekend fishing periods during the winter season eliminate overlapping open fishing periods for mainstem and Select Areas.
- ✓ Previous monitoring data has shown that steelhead handle during winter season is negligible.
- ✓ A 7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction has shown to be effective at targeting spring chinook and reducing steelhead handle in past fisheries.
- ✓ The 27-day spring fishery opening in late April with short night time fisheries followed by an increasing progression of fishing days through the season is designed to maximize the harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts to nonlocal stocks.
- ✓ Split fishing periods allow for modifications to fishery as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Fishing seasons are concurrent with Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Deep River seasons at the participants request to minimize congestion in fishing areas.
- ✓ The 8-day summer fishery during June 23 - July 29 is recommended to provide harvest opportunity on early returning SAB stock fall chinook and remaining local spring chinook.
- ✓ Fishing periods late in week during summer season were requested by commercial industry representatives to facilitate direct sales to public.
- ✓ Since 1979, transportation of catch by fishers out of Youngs Bay during the mainstem closed season has been prohibited. Special transportation rules have not been in effect since the 1999 spring season.

### ***Sport Fisheries***

- Permanent Oregon angling regulations for waters within the select areas of Youngs Bay, Tongue Point Basin/South Channel, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2004 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet and are open to chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.
- Permanent Washington sport fishing rules list waters of Deep River open to chinook salmon, fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

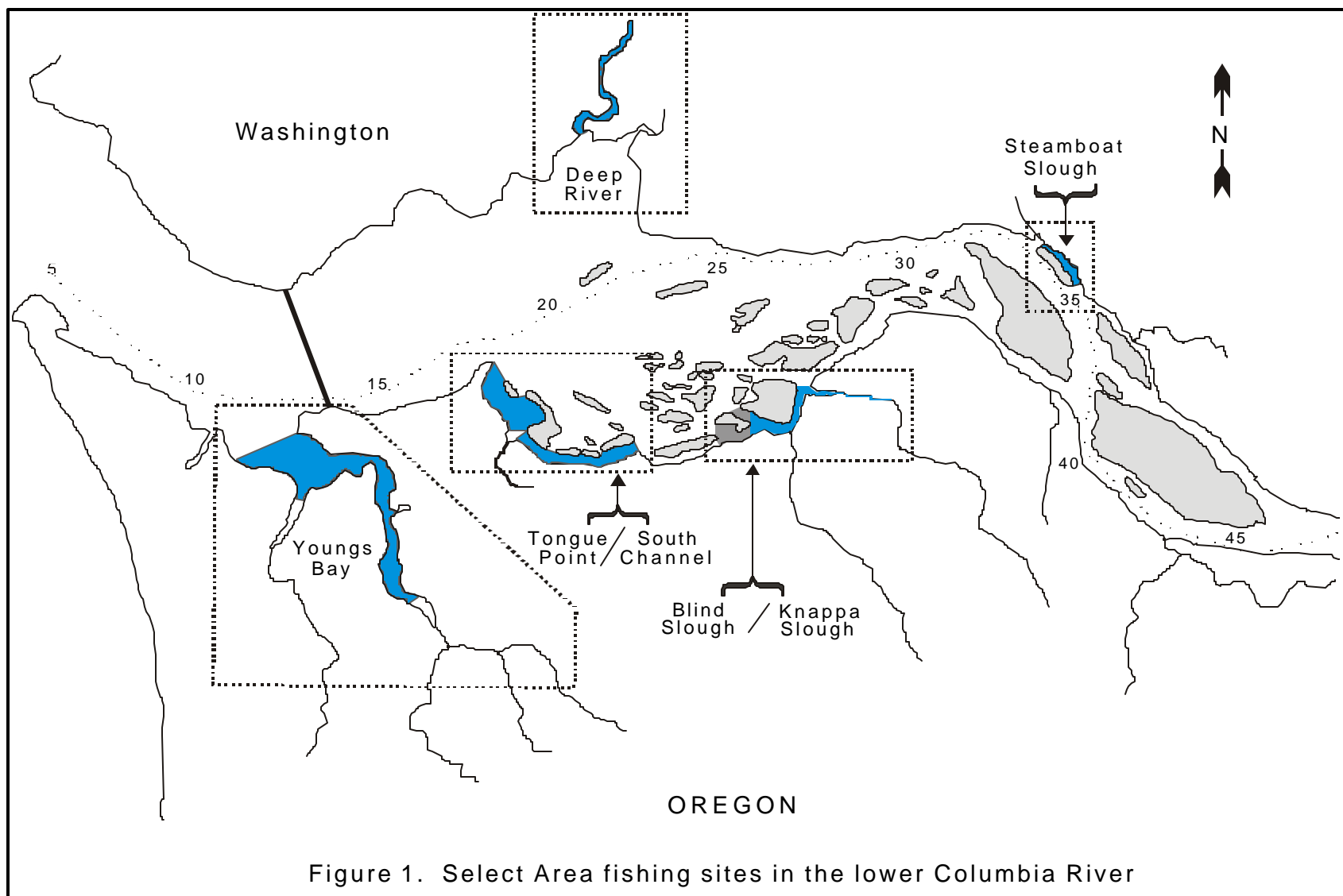
- The Joint Staff is not recommending any additional Compact hearings at this time.
- Compacts may occur via phone on Monday or Wednesday of each week beginning Monday February 23 to adopt fishing periods for the commercial demonstration fishery.
- Fishery checkpoints may occur one to two days per week during April through mid-May to modify the ongoing sport fishery. The first sport fishery checkpoint is scheduled for Tuesday April 6.



***Issues Requiring Compact Consideration***

- Non-Indian spring chinook impact allocation between sport and commercial fisheries (page 3).
- Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan and gear regulations (pages 7 and 8).
- Post release mortality rates for spring chinook and steelhead handled in commercial fisheries (page 7).
- Area 2S shad fishing season (page 9).
- Anchovy and herring bait fishing season (page 9).
- Non-Indian spring chinook sport fishing plan and season (page 10).
- Steelhead and shad retention during the non-Indian spring chinook sport fishery (page 11).
- Sale of shad during treaty Indian fisheries (pages 11 and 12).
- Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area winter and spring commercial fisheries - Compact and Oregon State action (pages 13 and 14).
- Deep River Select Area spring commercial fishery - Compact and Washington State action (pages 14 and 15).
- Youngs Bay Select Area winter, spring, and summer fisheries - Oregon State action (pages 15 and 16).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
February 5, 2004



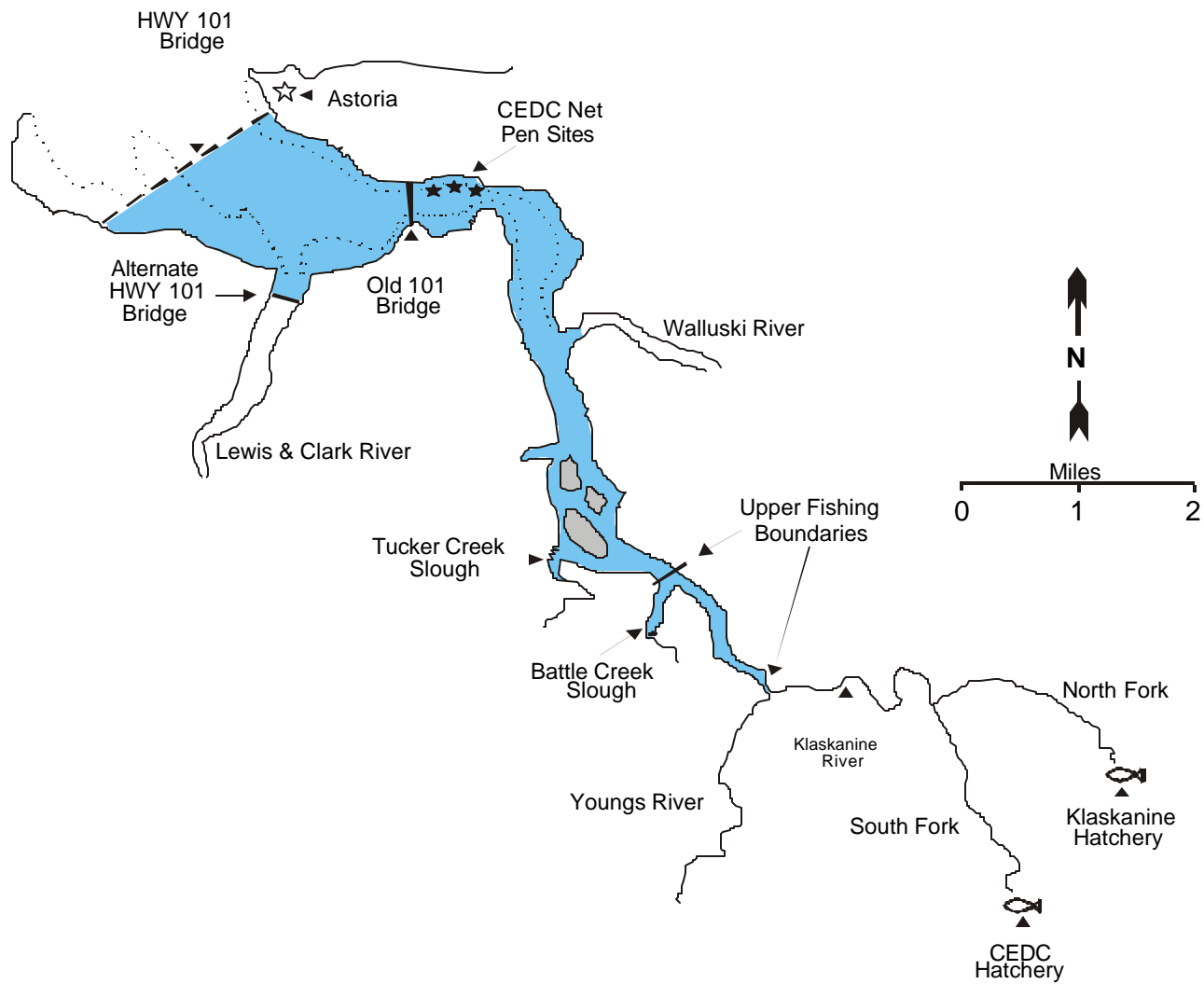


Figure 2. Youngs Bay Select Area fishing site.

